
Supports Intensity Scale™ Pilot Project

**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, & Substance Abuse Services**

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10/13/10

Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

- ❑ A standardized assessment that focuses on what supports are needed by an individual along several dimensions of everyday life
- ❑ Information gathered is used to help the team in developing the supports for a person to live successfully

Why is North Carolina using the Supports Intensity Scale?

Because the SIS is:

- ☐ positive and supports oriented
- ☐ engaging (i.e., the interview includes the consumer, family, case manager, and others familiar with the consumer)
- ☐ a reliable and valid instrument that is currently being used in 10 other states
- ☐ quantifiable, SIS yields solid information about support needs that can be used in building funding applications

Supports Intensity Scale™ (SIS) Pilot Project

- ❑ Implementation of the Supports Intensity Scale™ (SIS) Pilot Project in April of 2008.
- ❑ First year of the pilot was planning, building examiner capacity and infrastructure within the LME(s).
- ❑ The second year has been to implement the use of the SIS within the 7 pilot LME(s).

SIS Pilot Objectives

The objectives of this effort include:

- ❑ improving the assessment of individual service and support needs
- ❑ to more reliably inform the person centered planning process
- ❑ collecting data to begin planning for a systematic process for determining distribution of funding based on intensity of need

SIS Pilot LME(s)

- The seven LME(s) involved in the SIS Pilot Project include;
 - Durham,
 - East Carolina Behavioral Health,
 - Five County,
 - Guilford,
 - Mecklenburg,
 - Sandhills
 - Smoky Mountain Center

Development and Expansion of the Project

- ❑ Recruitment and training of 20 SIS assessors,
- ❑ Development of an effective supervision model for use with the SIS assessors,
- ❑ Development of curricula and provision of SIS overview training to the pilot LME(s), case managers and other provider staff,
- ❑ Development of an informational packet and distribution plan about the SIS instrument for use by the pilot LME(s),
- ❑ Development of a SIS specific web page on the DMH-DD-SAS website,

Development and Expansion of the Project

- ❑ Maintenance of an active working relationship with the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD, the sponsoring organization of the SIS)
- ❑ Review and analyze the AAIDD database maintained on NC SIS assessments completed,
- ❑ Provision of information and reports regarding the completion of SIS assessments within the pilot LME(s),
- ❑ Consultation with DMH-DD-SAS staff and stakeholders regarding the SIS tool and the SIS Pilot project, and
- ❑ Expansion of the use of the SIS assessment tool beyond the seven pilot LME(s) to include all LME(s) and individuals on the Support Waiver.

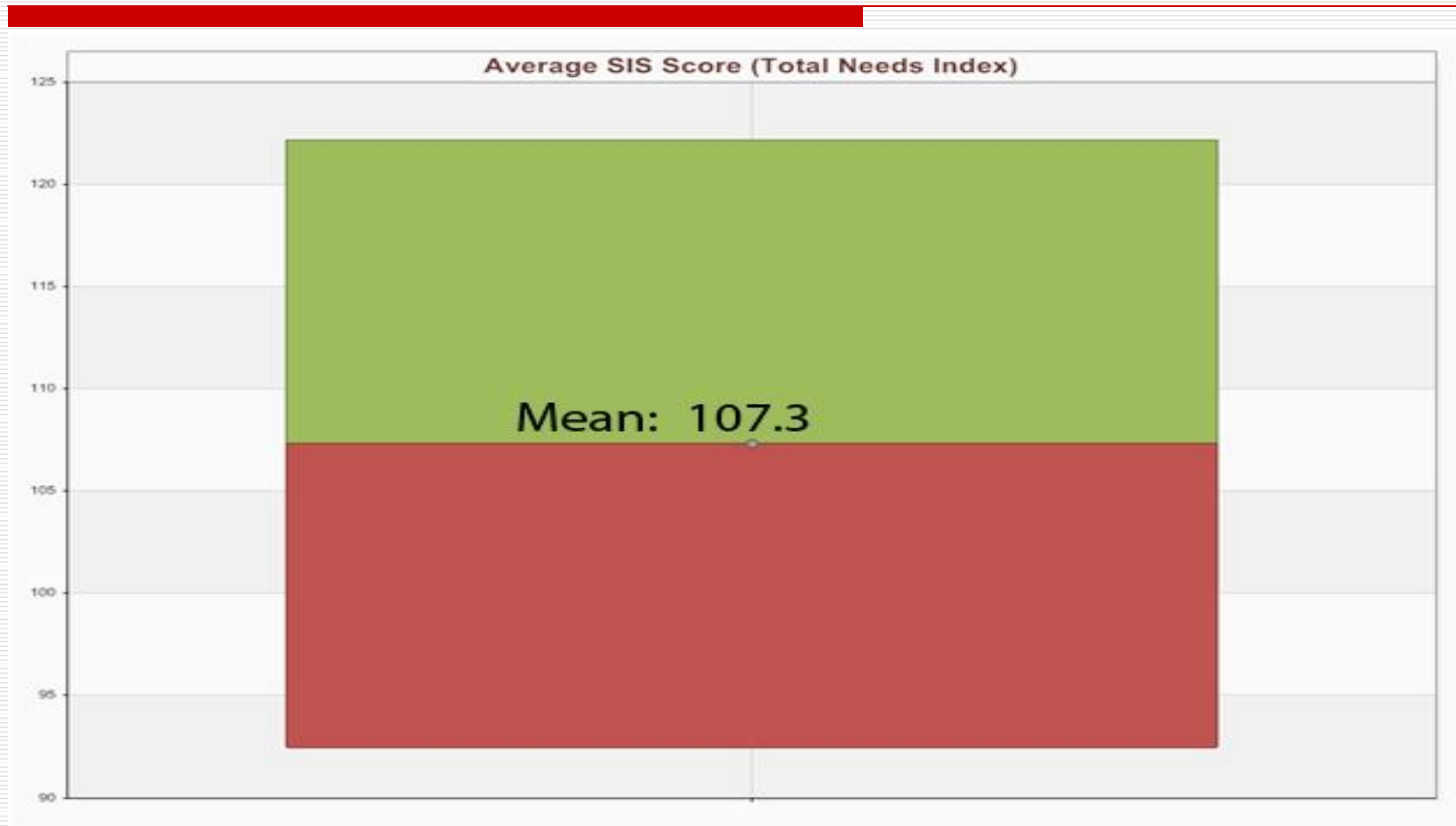
Development and Expansion of the Project

- ❑ Total of adolescent and adult SIS assessments completed as of October 1, 2010 is **860**.
- ❑ Age range of the sample is 16 through 72 years of age .
- ❑ The number of children assessed is 175 although not included in the 860 or data analysis

SIS Data Across States

- ❑ Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) has begun to observe common characteristics across multiple state data sets.
- ❑ The SIS Support Needs Index has an average score of 100
 - NC 107.3,
 - VA 101.74,
 - CO 99.89,
 - GA 98.23

North Carolina: Average Total Needs Index Score (SNI)



Total Number of Assessments: N = 860

NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

Mean Score: 107.3

October 1, 2010

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

Requires the seven LME(s) participating in the current Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment tool pilot project to administer a SIS assessment to all clients with developmental disabilities no later than October 1, 2010

- Currently there are 20 SIS practitioners and about 1778 individuals within the CAP-MR/DD waivers remaining to be assessed.
- Adequate time is needed to increase the numbers of SIS practitioners and complete the assessments.
- Currently the use of the SIS is not required within the waivers.

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

The participating LME(s) shall use the results of the SIS assessment to assign clients with developmental disabilities to one of the tiers within the CAP-MR/DD Waiver and to other needed services, according to their relative intensity of need.

- DMH-DD-SAS and DMA are the only agencies that have the authority to allocate slots for the waivers, not the LME(s).

Distribution of Funding Based On Intensity of Need

- DHHS needs to determine next steps to create a systematic process for distribution of funding based on intensity of need;
 - Specific types of information is required that includes SIS data with other information about people who receive services.
 - The use of the SIS in isolation is not best practice and jeopardizes the integrity of any process/system for determining service costs.
 - Adequate time is needed to complete the necessary work to define the specific parameters of the proposed sample.
 - Stakeholder input is CRITICAL!!

Distribution of Funding Based On Intensity of Need

DMH-DD-SAS is engaged in a variety of exploratory activities:

- ❑ Discussions with other states
- ❑ Discussions with Jon Fortune and John Agosta, of the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) regarding specific data requirements and information gathered from completed NC SIS assessments
- ❑ Discussions with PBH regarding the the PBH Support Needs Matrix

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

Implementation Plan:

- ☐ Focus on gathering data generated from the standardized version Adult SIS.
- ☐ NC-SNAP will continue for children and adults until such a time that the SIS is implemented statewide

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

Implementation Plan:

- ☐ First priority for completion of assessments is for adults on the CAP-MR/DD Waivers.
- ☐ Assessments based on the individual's annual Person Centered Plan (based on the individual's birthday).
- ☐ Assessments to occur at least 60 days prior to the completion of the Person Centered Plan

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- ❑ Waiver Technical Amendment (TA)
 - To *require* individuals to participate in the completion of the SIS
 - Complete and review by Physician's Advisory Group (PAG)
 - Submission to CMS.
 - **Target date for completion:
1/30/11**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- ❑ Implementation of the policy change (to require individuals to participate in the completion of the SIS) after CMS approval.
- ❑ **Target date for completion:
4/30/11**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- ❑ Recruitment and training of SIS practitioners through establishment of two NC mentor level trainers.
- ❑ **Target date for completion:
10/30/10**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- To increase practitioner capacity, secure commitment from inactive practitioners (formerly trained) to determine interest/recruit back to active status.
- **Target date for completion:
10/30/10**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- Finalize SIS training plan and establish schedule;
 - Develop training plan for new practitioners
 - Establish internal capacity for ongoing (reliable) training
 - **Target date for completion:
11/30/10**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- Continue work with Jon Fortune and John Agosta (HSRI) regarding data collection related to completed SIS assessments and decisions regarding the specific parameters of the proposed sample.
- **Target date for completion:
11/30/10**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- Determine next steps for formal planning for the creation of a systematic process for determining distribution of funding based on intensity of need.
- **Target date for completion:
1/31/11**

Implementation of SL 2010-31, Section 10.12. (f)(2)

- ☐ Determine resource requirements for the creation of a systematic process for determining distribution of funding based on intensity of need.
- ☐ Resource needs include specific funding needed for qualified staff and costs associated with the complete implementation of the SIS for all adults who receive waiver funding.
- ☐ **Target date for completion: 1/31/11**

Supports Intensity Scale™ Pilot Project

- Thank you for your attention!
- Questions???